

1 AN ACT relating to education.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing  
5 Section 2-3.64a as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a)

7 Sec. 2-3.64a. State Testing Review Committee; State  
8 Assessment System Review Committee.

9 (a) The State Superintendent shall appoint a committee  
10 of no more than 20 consisting of parents, teachers, school  
11 administrators, and concerned citizens to review the Illinois  
12 Goals and Assessment Program tests administered by the State  
13 Board of Education. The Committee shall select one of the  
14 parent representatives as its chairman. The Committee shall  
15 meet on an ongoing basis to review the content and design of  
16 the tests (including whether the requirements of subsection  
17 a-5 of Section 2-3.64 have been met), the time and money  
18 expended at the local and state levels to prepare for and  
19 administer the tests, the collective results of the tests as  
20 measured against the stated purpose of testing student  
21 performance, and other issues involving the tests identified  
22 by the Committee. The Committee shall make periodic  
23 recommendations to the State Superintendent and the General  
24 Assembly concerning the tests. On the effective date of this  
25 amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly, the State  
26 Testing Review Committee is dissolved.

27 (b) The General Assembly finds and declares all of the  
28 following:

29 (1) In order to ensure that the Illinois Learning  
30 Standards are being met in Illinois' public schools, a  
31 new State assessment system should be explored.

1           (2) The new State assessment system must meet the  
2 needs of and have significance for Illinois' teachers and  
3 students.

4           (3) The new State assessment system should be  
5 meaningful to higher education and employers.

6           (4) The new State assessment system must be cost  
7 efficient.

8           (5) The new State assessment system must ultimately  
9 result in less overall standardized testing.

10          (6) Teachers must have a thorough knowledge base of  
11 the Illinois Learning Standards and the use of local and  
12 State assessments to improve student learning.

13          (7) A series of State-sponsored, locally  
14 administered diagnostic assessments need to be available  
15 to school districts as well as their staffs.

16          (8) The new State assessment must be aligned to the  
17 Illinois Learning Standards.

18          (9) The new State assessment system must be well  
19 constructed, must be grade-level appropriate with  
20 effective testing procedures, and must be able to be used  
21 by school districts as well as their staffs.

22          (10) The new State assessment system must be kept  
23 in place for at least 5 years following its  
24 implementation.

25          (11) The State Assessment System Review Committee  
26 must explore the potential of annual State assessment  
27 aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards.

28          (c) The State Assessment System Review Committee is  
29 created, which shall consist of the following members:

30           (1) One parent, appointed by the Illinois PTA  
31 Congress of Parents and Teachers.

32           (2) One person appointed by the Governor.

33           (3) One representative of the business community,  
34 appointed by the Illinois Business Education Coalition.

1           (4) One representative from a regional office of  
2 education, appointed by the Illinois Association of  
3 Regional Superintendents of Schools.

4           (5) One school board member, appointed by the  
5 Illinois Association of School Boards.

6           (6) Four school administrators, with one  
7 administrator appointed by the Chicago Board of  
8 Education, one principal appointed by the Illinois  
9 Principals Association, one administrator appointed by  
10 the Large Unit District Association, and one  
11 administrator appointed by the Illinois Association of  
12 School Administrators.

13           (7) Four teachers, with 2 appointed by the Illinois  
14 Education Association and 2 appointed by the Illinois  
15 Federation of Teachers.

16           (8) Two representatives of higher education, one  
17 who is an expert in the field of assessment and one from  
18 admissions, appointed by the Chairperson of the Board of  
19 Higher Education.

20           (9) The State Superintendent of Education or his or  
21 her designee.

22           (d) Members of the State Assessment System Review  
23 Committee shall be initially appointed by July 1, 2003.  
24 Members shall serve 2-year terms. A chairperson of the  
25 Committee shall be selected by the appointed members from  
26 among its membership. The chairperson shall serve a 2-year  
27 term. The Committee shall meet at the call of the  
28 chairperson, who shall develop the agenda for the meetings  
29 with the advice of the members.

30           (e) The State Assessment System Review Committee shall  
31 explore a State assessment system consistent with the General  
32 Assembly's findings and declarations under subsection (b) of  
33 this Section and the requirements of subsection (a-5) of  
34 Section 2-3.64 of this Code. The Committee shall be provided

1 staff from the State Board of Education and outside sources  
2 with expertise in assessment, and such staff shall be  
3 directed by the chairperson of the Committee. Funding for  
4 the staffing shall be included in the State Board of  
5 Education's assessment budget. The Committee shall report  
6 its recommendations for the State assessment system to the  
7 Governor, General Assembly, and State Board of Education on  
8 or before January 1, 2005. Following its initial report, the  
9 Committee shall periodically meet to review the  
10 implementation of the State assessment system and ensure that  
11 the State assessment system meets the requirements of this  
12 Section. Following its initial report, the Committee shall  
13 issue an additional report to the Governor, General Assembly,  
14 and State Board of Education regarding the implementation of  
15 the State assessment system on or before January 1 of each  
16 even-numbered year.

17 (Source: P.A. 89-184, eff. 7-19-95; 90-789, eff. 8-14-98.)

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
19 becoming law.